

REMARKS

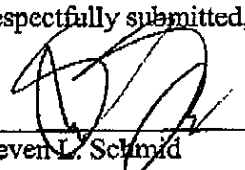
Applicants have amended the present application to further expedite the prosecution of the present application. Applicants respectfully request an in-person interview with the Examiner at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Applicants will be contacting the Examiner by telephone to see if such a meeting can be scheduled.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-9, 11-15 and 25 remain pending in the present application. Applicants urge that the present application is now in a condition for an allowance and an early notice of such is earnestly solicited. However, if it is believed that any issues remain unresolved in the present application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

1/16/04

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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